Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 – 11 of the original patent U.S. 6,465,910 are retained, with the exception that claim 1 is currently amended to correct a minor typographical error, and new claims 12 – 19 are added herewith, in accordance with the following listing:

1. (currently amended) A power system (**8**) for providing uninterrupted electric power to a critical load (**14**), comprising:

a. a first power source (**10**) providing sufficient power to supply the critical load (**14**);

b. a second power source (**18**) comprising at least one fuel cell power plant (**18**), the second power source providing sufficient power to supply the critical load (**14**) and adapted to be normally substantially continuously connected and providing power to, the critical load (**14**);

c. a static switch (**19**) for selectively connecting and disconnecting the first power source (**10**) to the second power source (**18**) and [(]to[)] the critical load (**14**); and

d. a switch controller (**49, 45**) for controlling the state of the static switch (**19**) to connect the first power source (**10**) with the critical load (**14**) and the second power source (**18**) during normal operation of the first power source (**10**) and to rapidly disconnect the first power source (**10**) from the critical load (**14**) and the second power source (**18**) if and when operation of the first power source (**10**) deviates beyond a limit from normal.

12. (new) A power system (**8**) for providing uninterrupted electric power to a critical load (**14**), comprising:

a. a first power source (**10**) providing sufficient power to supply the critical load (**14**);

b. a second power source (**18**), the second power source providing sufficient power to supply the critical load (**14**) and adapted to be normally substantially continuously connected and providing power to, the critical load (**14**);

c. a static switch (**19**) for selectively connecting and disconnecting the first power source (**10**) to the second power source (**18**) and to the critical load (**14**); and

d. a switch controller (**49, 45**) for controlling the state of the static switch (**19**) to connect the first power source (**10**) with the critical load (**14**) and the second power source (**18**) during normal operation of the first power source (**10**) and to rapidly disconnect the first power source (**10**) from the critical load (**14**) and the second power source (**18**) if and when operation of the first power source (**10**) deviates beyond a limit from normal.

13. (new) The power system (**8**) of claim **12** wherein the switch controller (**49, 45**) additionally controls the state of the static switch (**19**) to rapidly reconnect the first power source (**10**) with the critical load (**14**) and the second power source (**18**) when the first power source (**10**) returns to normal operation.

14. (new) The power system (**8**) of claim **12** wherein the static switch (**19**) is a solid-state device.

15. (new) The power system (**8**) of claim **14** wherein the solid-state device is a thyristor (**19**).

16. (new) The power system (**8**) of claim **12** wherein the first power source (**10**) is a utility power grid and wherein the second power source (**18**) includes at least one power conditioning system (**PCS**) for configuring operation of the second power source (**18**) in a grid connected mode or in a grid independent mode in response to mode control signals (**D1/401', D2/402'**), and including a site management controller (**31**) connected intermediate the switch controller (**49, 45**) and the power conditioning system (**PCS**) and responsive to preliminary mode signals (**M1/401, M2/402**) from the switch controller (**49, 45**) for providing the mode control signals (**D1/401', D2/402'**) to the second power source power conditioning system (**PCS**), whereby the second power source (**18**) rapidly transitions operation between the grid connected and the grid independent modes.

17. (new) The power system of claim **16** wherein the rapid disconnection of the first power source (**10**) from the critical load (**14**) and the second power source (**18**), and the rapid transitioning of operation of the second power source (**18**) between the grid connected mode and the grid independent mode occurs within an interval of about 4 milliseconds.

18. (new) The power system of claim **12** wherein the rapid disconnection of the first power source (**10**) from the critical load (**14**) and the second power source (**18**) occurs within an interval of less than about 8.3 milliseconds.

19. (new) The power system of claim **18** wherein the rapid disconnection of the first power source (**10**) from the critical load (**14**) and the second power source (**18**) occurs within an interval of about 4 milliseconds.